New Law to Regulate Contract Labour

1350. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new law to regulate, *inter-alia* the contract labour in Indian Industries is on the anvil;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for the enactment of a new law;

(c) whether it is a fact that the new labour law would permit employment of women and child labour in factories and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what safeguards are proposed to be taken to prevent the exploitation female and child labour and ensure them protection against moral and material abandonment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) In the wake of economic liberalizaton as well as judgements of various courts, proposals have been received from social partners to bring about changes in the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970. The changes or amendments to be made if any, after taking into consideration all relevant factors have not yet been finalised.

Declaration of Construction Work as Industry

1351. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction has been declared as industry, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Building and Other Construction Workers Cess Welfare Act, 1996 and Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Service Conditions) Act, 1996 are implemented in all States; and

(c) whether the Advisory Committee or Welfare Boards have been constituted or not?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Construction activity has been notified under Industrial Development Bank of India Act, 1964 as an 'industrial concern' with a view to enabling focused financing of this sector which is a significant activity under both housing and as a commercial entity.

(b) and (c) The State Governments have initiated the process of implementation of the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 and Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996 i.e. constitution of State Advisory Committees, Experts Committee to formulate Rules, State Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Boards and notification of authorities etc. for the implementation of the Act.

The Government has constituted the Central Advisory Committee.

Salient Features of Proposed Labour Legislation

1352. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it is proposed to enact shortly a new legislation on contract labour;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and some of the salient features of the proposed legislation;

(c) whether the proposed law would be placed in Parliament during its Monsoon Session; and

(d) whether adequate provisions for safety net for contract labour would be provided in the revised Bill and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) In the wake of economic liberalization as well as judgements of various courts, proposals have been received from social partners to bring about changes in the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970. The changes or amendments to be made, if any, after taking into consideration all relevant factors, have not yet been finalised.

Torture of Minor Domestic Servants

1353. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incident of violence and torture of minor domestic servants in the city have been on the rise;

(b) if so, whether Government have critically reviewed the Child Labour Preventive Act, 1986 to identify the weaknesses in dealing with the problems and to provide it more teeth to effectively prevent such incidents throughout the country; and